

This result (I suppose I may say so different from the expectations of all) was brought about by no recommendations in your behalf; but it is solely the consequence of the estimation in which you are held by the Executive in which the Secretary of State entirely concurs.

Knowing that you took an interest in Mr. Waddell's appointment, in which I most heartily united, I have, though often pressed by the Secretary of State, refused to answer enquiries which I could have answered in relation to your appointment, without in the least laying aside any interest in Mr. Waddell's appointment.

I do not think our friend has at any time stood a chance to get such a situation as we & his friends generally desired for him, and I would have written to him to this effect, but for fear of being misunderstood.¹⁷ I say that I hope you will not decline the appointment if it is tendered to you, yet I do not write for the purpose nor with the wish of receiving an *answer* that you will accept. As I have done or said nothing in the matter, I do not wish to know even your views about it. I may be permitted however to express the very great gratification I shall feel at your appointment to such a post & I feel confident that the appointment of no other gentleman will meet with so hearty a concurrence amongst the people of the State at large. As this will be a spontaneous offering to your merits as well as to the opinions and wishes of the public, I do not think you can be at liberty to decline.

Remember that when I received at your hands the important yet responsible and dangerous office of a Military Command, in a Service beyond the limits of the Country, I sacrificed every domestic duty, every selfish feeling, to the public service, you cannot do more in accepting the post of honor & service that will be tendered to you; I would not wish you to do less.

¹⁷ Willie P. Mangum wrote Graham, on May 25, 1849, that, after the most strenuous efforts of his life, he was beaten. "Waddell cannot be appointed abroad." He went on to add that only one North Carolinian could be appointed—Graham himself, stating that he was to be appointed minister to Spain or Russia, "at your choice."